

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 NEA-10 EB-11 FEA-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /148 W

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R 022223Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8011

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION USNATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USINT ALGIERS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 08122

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: EGN, UNGA, FR

SUBJECT: UNGA SPECIAL SESSION

REF: STATE 57513

SUMMARY: FRENCH POSITIONS FOR SPECIAL UNGA ARE STILL UNDECIDED. THEY WILL INSIST ON THOROUGH DISCUSSION OF OIL; ALTHOUGH THIS MIGHT DISPLEASE THEIR ARAB OIL-PRODUCING FRIENDS, IT WILL INGRATiate THEM WITH OTHER LDC'S. FRENCH ASPIRATIONS FOR "THIRD WORLD" LEADERSHIP WILL BE FURTHER COMPLICATED BY CONSIDERATION OF EC-9 SOLIDARITY. END SUMMARY

1. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM QUAI UN DIRECTOR LEPRETTE, MARCH 29 EMBOFF DREW ON POSITIONS CONTAINED REFTTEL CONCERNING UNGA SPECIAL SESSION. LEPRETTE SAW NO ITEMS ON WHICH HE WOULD WISH TO ARGUE WITH US POSITIONS. GOF, HOWEVER, IS STILL IN INITIAL STAGES
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OF DRAFTING ITS POSITIONS WITHIN INTER-MINISTERIAL

WORKING GROUP INCLUDING MINISTRIES OF FINANCE, INDUSTRY ETC. HE SAID THAT FOREIGN MINISTER JOBERT SCHEDULED TO ATTEND OPENING DAYS OF CONFERENCE BUT THAT THIS HAS NOT BEEN CONFIRMED; LEPRETTE WAS NOT ABLE TO SAY ANYTHING DEFINITE ABOUT COMPOSITION FRENCH DELEGATION EXCEPT THAT HE HIMSELF WOULD ATTEND. LEPRETTE WARNED THAT FOLLOWING VIEWS DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THOSE OF JOBERT WITH WHOM HE HAS NOT YET HAD OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS SPECIAL SESSION.

2. LEPRETTE CHARACTERIZED GROUP OF 77 "ACTION PROGRAM" AS CATALOGUE OF LDC DEMANDS, WHICH HAS NOT EVEN BEEN ENDORSED BY G-77. GOF DOES NOT EXPECT UNGA WILL CONVERT THIS INTO SENSIBLE PROGRAM ON WHICH ACTION COULD BE TAKEN BUT HOPES TO SEE IT MODIFIED IN THE DIRECTION OF GREATER REALISM. LEPRETTE SEES TWO POSSIBILITIES: EITHER LDC'S WILL AGREE TO NEGOTIATE MODIFICATIONS OR THEY WILL USE THEIR VOTING MAJORITY TO FORCE ADOPTION OF THIS UNREALISTIC PROGRAM. HE WAS UNABLE TO PREDICT WHETHER IN THE LATTER CIRCUMSTANCES GOF WOULD ABSTAIN OR VOTE AGAINST.

3. HE HAD NOT BEEN FULLY INFORMED ABOUT JOBERT'S CONVERSATIONS IN ALGIERS REGARDING SPECIAL UNGA. LEPRETTE UNDERSTANDS THAT PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE HAD SHOWN HIMSELF "REALISTIC" REGARDING BOTH THE ACTION PROGRAM AND THE NEED TO GET RIGHT INTO THE SUBJECT OF ENERGY AND SPECIFICALLY OIL. ALTHOUGH ALGERIA HAD HOPED TO AVOID DISCUSSION OF OIL WHICH THREATENS TO DIVIDE GROUP OF 77, JOBERT HAS PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY INSISTED THAT THIS IS, LITERALLY, ESSENTIAL. ON BASIS PARA 5D REFTTEL, EMBOFF COMMENTED, AND LEPRETTE AGREED, THAT SUCH DISCUSSION SHOULD BE CONSTRUCTIVE AND NON-ACRIMONIOUS.

4. WHEN EMBOFF TOUCHED ON SOME POINTS IN PARA 4 OF REFERENCE, LEPRETTE SAID FACT THAT VARIOUS SUBJECTS OVERLAP WITH EXISTING NEGOTIATIONS CANNOT JUSTIFY THEIR BEING PASSED OVER AT SPECIAL UNGA. IN FACT KEY ELEMENT IN GOF POLICY IS THAT OPPORTUNITY MUST BE CONFIDENTIAL

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PROVIDED FOR ALL CONCERNED TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES ON SUCH MATTERS AS RAW MATERIALS AND ENERGY; PARIS BELIEVES UN IS RIGHT BODY FOR THIS. THAT CONVICTION HAD BEEN AT THE ORIGIN OF JOBERT'S INITIAL PROPOSAL FOR WORLD ENERGY CONFERENCE WHICH HE MADE AT AN EC-9 MEETING IN EARLY JANUARY. LEPRETTE SAID THIS HAD SUBSEQUENTLY LED FRANCE TO SUPPORT ALGERIAN PROPOSAL FOR UNGA SPECIAL SESSION. HE ASSURED US THAT IT

HAD NOT BEEN INTENDED TO DISPLEASE OTHERS, SUCH AS USG.

5. THIS LED TO CLARIFICATION BY LEPRETTE OF GOF
POSITION CONCERNING WORLD ENERGY CONFERENCE PROPOSAL
ON WHICH GOF HAS REPORTEDLY GIVEN UNCLEAR SIGNALS IN
SUCH UN BODIES AS ECOSOC. LEPRETTE SAID THAT FRANCE
WOULD WAIT UNTIL AFTER SPECIAL UNGA AND DECIDE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 08122

WHETHER TO PRESS FOR SEPARATE ENERGY CONFERENCE DEP-
ENDING ON WHETHER UNGA HAD PERMITTED FULL EXPRESSION
OF ATTITUDES WITHIN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

6. LEPRETTE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE IS SOME AMBIVA-
LANCE CONCERNING NEED TO ALIGN POSITION OF NINE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY GOVERNMENTS IN PREPARATION FOR
UNGA. HE SAID THAT GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD

SPEAK FOR 9 ON CERTAIN ITEMS AT SPECIAL SESSION WHEN THOSE ITEMS WERE SUBJECT TO EC-9 CONSENSUS. ON OTHER SUBJECTS SCHEEL WOULD SPEAK FOR GERMANY AND OTHER EC-9 DELEGATIONS WOULD SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES.

7. COMMENT: LEPRETTE WAS AT SOME PAINS TO ASSURE US THAT GOF DID NOT VIEW SPECIAL UNGA AS OPPORTUNITY TO BE ANTAGONISTIC TOWARD USG. WHILE JOBERT CHARACTER-ISTICALLY KEEPS QUAI DIRECTORS BADLY INFORMED ON HIS CONFIDENTIAL

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VIEWS AND INTENTIONS, WE DO NOT HAVE IMPRESSION THAT ANTAGONISM TOWARD USG WILL MOTIVATE FRENCH POSITIONS. IN ADDITION TO EUROPEAN COMMUNITY CONSIDER-ATIONS, GOF POSITIONS WILL BE INFLUENCED BY FRENCH ASPIRATIONS FOR SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP TO "THIRD WORLD", WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ARABS AND FRANCOPHONE AFRICANS. THESE ASPIRATIONS, HOWEVER, PRESENT DILEMMAS SUCH AS HOW TO PLEASE BOTH OIL PRODUCERS AND LDC AFRICANS CURRENTLY THREATENED BY HIGH PETROLEUM PRICES. THIS DILEMMA APPARENTLY CAME TO THE FORE DURING JOBERT'S ALGERIAN VISIT WHICH PREVENTED ALIGNMENT BETWEEN FRENCH AND ALGERIANS REGARDING SPECIAL SESSION. IN FACT, ACCORDING TO A WELL-INFORMED JOURNALIST WHO ACCOMPANIED JOBERT, THE FOREIGN MINISTER WARNED BOUMEDIENE THAT FRANCE MIGHT HAVE TO OPPOSE CERTAIN ALGERIAN POSITIONS. HENCE JOBERT WILL BE GOING TO NEW YORK LARGELY "PLAYING IT BY EAR". FOR FRANCE, AS WELL AS US, THIS WILL BE PRIMARILY A DAMAGE-LIMITING OPERATION.

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